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Letter dated 27 June 2007 from the Permanent Representatives of South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

The Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council agreed, on 16 June in Addis Ababa, on a joint communiqué on improving cooperation between the two bodies (see annex). I would be grateful if the present letter and the attached communiqué could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dumisani Shadrack **Kumalo**
Permanent Representative of South Africa to the United Nations

(*Signed*) Emyr **Jones Parry**
Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations

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Annex to the letter dated 27 June 2007 from the Permanent Representatives of South Africa and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Joint communiqué agreed by the Security Council and the African Union Peace and Security Council

1. Recalling that the Security Council has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security;

2. Recalling the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations on the relationship with regional arrangements;

3. Recalling the mandate of the African Union Peace and Security Council with regard to the maintenance of peace and security in Africa, as provided for in the relevant provisions of the Protocol relating to the establishment of the Peace and Security Council of the African Union;

4. Recalling the presidential statements and decisions of the Security Council and Peace and Security Council on the relationship between the two bodies;

5. Recognizing the contribution made by the African Union, the regional economic communities and the United Nations in promoting peace in Africa;

6. Underlining the importance of support for the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture and in this context encouraging the implementation of the 10-year programme for capacity-building between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission;

7. At our joint meeting here today, we commit ourselves to the development of a stronger and more structured relationship between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council, inter alia, on conflict prevention, management and resolution, peacekeeping and peacebuilding, including post-conflict reconstruction and development, as well as sharing of information on conflict situations on the agendas of the two bodies.

8. We express our support for the strengthening of African Union capacity within the Commission in all relevant areas, such as planning and logistics, and in particular the establishment of a well-resourced peacekeeping capability, as well as in the fields of conflict prevention, management and resolution.

9. We attach particular importance to the development of the African standby force.

10. We agree to consider, including on the basis of the forthcoming report from the Secretary-General, the modalities for supporting and improving in a sustained way the resource base and capacity of the African Union. In doing so, we will bear in mind that in taking initiatives for the promotion of peace and security in Africa in terms of Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, the African Union is also acting on behalf of the international community, and we will examine the possibility of the financing of a peacekeeping operation undertaken by the African Union or under its authority, as requested in the

decision of the African Union Assembly of Heads of State and Government (Assembly/AU/Dec. 145 (VIII)).

11. We agree to strengthen the relationship between all the relevant structures of the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council, including their subsidiary bodies.

12. We agree to hold joint meetings between the Security Council and the Peace and Security Council, at least once a year, either in Addis Ababa or New York.

13. We express support for closer cooperation between the United Nations Secretariat and the African Union Commission, particularly on conflict prevention, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

14. We encourage the sharing of experiences on working methods between the two bodies.

15. We encourage close consultations between the African Union and the Security Council as decisions are being prepared on issues affecting peace and security in Africa.

16. To further our relationship, we will consider how best to improve the effectiveness of African Union and United Nations peace efforts in Africa and how to strengthen coordination between the African Union and the United Nations. We look forward to further joint consideration at our next meeting.